

a receiver including (a) receiving means for receiving the data signals on the first and second communication channels and (b) tuning means responsive to a selected communication channel indication for tuning in a particular one of the first and second communication channels identified by the selected communication channel indication,

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wherein the transmitter transmits to the receiver on the particular communication channel based on the selected communication channel indication, and

wherein the receiver further includes selecting means coupled with the receiving means for selecting one of the first and second communication channels and selecting a selected communication channel indication, and communicating means for communicating the selected communication channel indication to the transmitter.

16. (Amended) A satellite broadcasting system comprising:

a transmitter including transmitting means for transmitting data signals on first and second communication channels via satellite; and

wherein the transmitter transmits to the receiver on the particular communication channel based on the selected communication channel indication, and wherein the receiver further includes selecting means coupled with the transmitting means for selecting one of the first and second communication channels for communication with the receiver and selecting a selected communication channel indication notifying means responsive to the selecting means for providing the receiver with the selected communication channel indication,

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wherein the transmitter transmits to the receiver on the particular communication channel based on the selected communication channel indication, and

wherein the transmitter further includes selecting means coupled with the transmitting means for selecting one of the first and second communication channels for communication with the receiver and selecting a selected communication channel indication notifying means responsive to the selecting means for providing the receiver with the selected communication channel indication,

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wherein the first communication channel has a first bit rate and the second communication channel has a second bit rate greater than the first bit rate, and wherein signals received by the receiver are characterized at any given time by an energy-per-bit to noise ratio, and wherein the receiver further includes means for monitoring the energy-per-bit to noise ratio, and wherein the receiver periodically communicates the energy-per-bit to noise ratio to the transmitter.

19. (Amended) A satellite broadcasting system comprising:
a transmitter including transmitting means for transmitting data signals on first and second communication channels via satellite; and
a receiver including (a) receiving means for receiving the data signals on the first and second communication channels and (b) tuning means responsive to a selected communication channel indication for tuning in a particular one of the first and second communication channels identified by the selected communication channel indication,

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wherein the transmitter transmits to the receiver on the particular communication channel based on the selected communication channel indication, and

wherein the transmitter further includes selecting means coupled with the transmitting means for selecting one of the first and second communication channels for communication with the receiver and selecting a selected communication channel indication; and notifying means responsive to the selecting means for providing the receiver with the selected communication channel indication,

wherein the first communication channel has a first power level and the second communication channel has a second power level lower than the first power level, and wherein signals received by the receiver are characterized at any given time by an energy-per-bit to noise ratio, and wherein the receiver further includes means for

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monitoring the energy-per-bit to noise ratio, and wherein the receiver periodically communicates the energy-per-bit to noise ratio to the transmitter.

22. (Amended) A satellite broadcasting system, a transmitter including transmitting means for transmitting data signals on first and second communication channels via satellite; and

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a receiver including (a) receiving means for receiving the data signals on the first and second communication channels and (b) tuning means responsive to a selected communication channel indication for tuning in a particular one of the first and second communication channels identified by the selected communication channel indication,

wherein the transmitter transmits to the receiver on the particular communication channel based on the selected communication channel indication, and

wherein the transmitter transmits digital data signals at a first bit rate on the first communication channel and transmits digital data signals at a second bit rate different from the first bit rate on the second communication channel.

24. (Amended) A satellite broadcasting system, a transmitter including transmitting means for transmitting data signals on first and second communication channels via satellite; and

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a receiver including (a) receiving means for receiving the data signals on the first and second communication channels and (b) tuning means responsive to a selected communication channel indication for tuning in a particular one of the first and second communication channels identified by the selected communication channel indication,

wherein the transmitter transmits to the receiver on the particular communication channel based on the selected communication channel indication, and

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wherein the transmitter transmits digital data signals at a first power level on the first communication channel and transmits digital data signals at a second power level different from the first power level on the second communication channel.

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28. (Amended) A satellite broadcasting system, a transmitter including transmitting means for transmitting data signals on first and second communication channels via satellite; and

a receiver including (a) receiving means for receiving the data signals on the first and second communication channels and (b) tuning means responsive to a selected communication channel indication for tuning in a particular one of the first and second communication channels identified by the selected communication channel indication,

wherein the transmitter transmits to the receiver on the particular communication channel based on the selected communication channel indication, and

wherein the first and second communication channels comprise respective first and second signals broadcast by at least one satellite at a single frequency, and wherein one of the first and second signals has a different polarization than the other.

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33. (Amended) A satellite broadcasting system comprising:
a transmitter including transmitting means for transmitting data signals on first and second communication channels via satellite; and

a receiver including (a) receiving means for receiving the data signals on the first and second communication channels and (b) tuning means responsive to a selected communication channel indication for tuning in a particular one of the first and second communication channels identified by the selected communication channel indication.

wherein the transmitter transmits to the receiver on the particular communication channel based on the selected communication channel indication,

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Concl.* wherein the transmitter transmits to the receiver on one of a plurality of communication channels, said plurality including the first and second communication channels, and

wherein the transmitter includes means for determining a communication channel load factor for each of the plurality of communication channels.

B8 39. (Amended) A satellite broadcasting system, comprising:

a transmitter including transmitting means for transmitting data signals on first and second communication channels via satellite; and

a receiver including (a) receiving means for receiving the data signals on the first and second communication channels and (b) tuning means responsive to a selected communication channel indication for tuning in a particular one of the first and second communication channels identified by the selected communication channel indication,

wherein the transmitter transmits to the receiver on the particular communication channel based on the selected communication channel indication, and

wherein the transmitter broadcasts information pertaining to each communication channel.

B9 41. (Amended) A satellite broadcasting system according to Claim 2, wherein said receiver is a computer terminal.

42. (Amended) A system comprising:
a transmitting apparatus for transmitting data by a selected one of a plurality of satellite communication channels, the plurality of satellite communication channels comprising a first satellite communication channel having a lower bit rate and a second satellite communication channel having a higher bit rate; and

a receiver for receiving data using a selected one of the plurality of satellite communication channels,

wherein said receiver comprises a signal strength detector for detecting signal strength of the selected one of the plurality of satellite communication channels, and

wherein at least one of the following two conditions is satisfied (i) said transmitting apparatus changes selection of the satellite communication channel from the second satellite communication channel to the first satellite communication channel in response to detection, by said signal strength detector of said receiver, of the signal strength of the second satellite communication channel being less than a predetermined value or (ii) said transmitting apparatus changes selection of the satellite communication channel from the first satellite communication channel to the second satellite communication channel in response to detection, by said signal strength detector of said receiver, of the signal strength of the first satellite communication channel being greater than a predetermined value.

46. (Amended) A system according to any of claims 42 and 43,
wherein said transmitting apparatus changes selection of the satellite communication channel from the second satellite communication channel to the first satellite communication channel in response to detection, by said signal quality detector of said

receiver, of the signal strength of the second satellite communication channel being less than a predetermined value.

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47. (Amended) A system according to any of claims 42 and 43, wherein said transmitting apparatus changes selection of the satellite communication channel from the first satellite communication channel to the second satellite communication channel in response to detection, by said signal quality detector of said receiver, of the signal strength of the first satellite communication channel being greater than a predetermined value.

48. (Amended) A system according to claim 42, wherein the first satellite communication channel has a lower bit rate effected by BPSK modulation and the second satellite communication channel has a higher bit rate effected by QPSK modulation.

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57. (Amended) A system comprising:
a transmitter for transmitting data via satellite, said transmitter transmitting data on a selected one of a plurality of satellite communication channels; and
a receiver for receiving data using a selected one of the plurality of satellite communication channels,
wherein said transmitter selects the one of the plurality of satellite communication channels on which data is to be transmitted from said transmitter to said receiver in accordance with load levels respectively associated with the plurality of satellite communication channels.

58. (Amended) A system according to claim 57, wherein said transmitter selects the one of the plurality of satellite communication channels on which

data is to be transmitted from said transmitter to said receiver by selecting the satellite communication channel having the lowest load level.

59. (Amended) A system according to claim 57, wherein said transmitter selects a lower speed and/or higher power satellite communication channel only after using up all other higher speed and/or lower power satellite communication channels.

60. (Amended) A system according to claim 75, wherein said receiver selects the one of the plurality of satellite communication channels on which data is to be transmitted from said transmitter to said receiver in accordance with information sent by said transmitter to said receiver representative of load level, bit rate, and/or power level of a satellite communication channel.

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61. (Amended) A system according to claim 75, wherein said receiver selects the one of the plurality of satellite communication channels on which data is to be transmitted from said transmitter to said receiver and transmits information identifying the selected satellite communication channel to said transmitter to cause said transmitter to transmit to said receiver on the selected satellite communication channel.

66. (Amended) A system according to claim 75, wherein said receiver communicates the selection of the satellite communication channel to said transmitter via a telephone line, a packet network, or the Internet.

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67. (Amended) A system according to claim 75, wherein said receiver communicates the selection of the satellite communication channel to said transmitter via a satellite return channel.

Please add new Claims 69 through 77 as follows:

-- 69. A system comprising:

a transmitting apparatus for transmitting data by a selected one of a plurality of satellite communication channels, the plurality of satellite communication channels comprising a first satellite communication channel having a higher signal power level and a second satellite communication channel having a lower signal power level; and

a receiver for receiving data using a selected one of the plurality of satellite communication channels,

wherein said receiver comprises a signal strength detector for detecting signal strength of the selected one of the plurality of satellite communication channels, and

wherein at least one of the following two conditions is satisfied (i) said transmitting apparatus changes selection of the satellite communication channel from the second satellite communication channel to the first satellite communication channel in response to detection, by said signal strength detector of said receiver, of the signal strength of the second satellite communication channel being less than a predetermined value or (ii) said transmitting apparatus changes selection of the satellite communications channel from the first satellite communication channel to the second satellite communication channel in response to detection, by said signal strength detector of said receiver, of the signal strength of the first satellite communication channel being greater than a predetermined value.

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70. A system according to claim 69, wherein said signal strength detector detects signal strength by determining an energy-per-bit to noise ratio.

71. A system according to any of claims 69 and 70, wherein said transmitting apparatus changes selection of the satellite communication channel from the second satellite communication channel to the first satellite communication channel in response to detection, by said signal quality detector of said receiver, of the signal strength of the second satellite communication channel being less than a predetermined value.

72. A system according to any of claims 69 and 70, wherein said transmitting apparatus changes selection of the satellite communication channel from the first satellite communication channel to the second satellite communication channel in response to detection, by said signal quality detector of said receiver, of the signal strength of the first satellite communication channel being greater than a predetermined value.

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73. A system according to claim 69, wherein the first satellite communication channel and the second satellite communication channel are associated with different frequency bands.

74. A system according to claim 69, wherein the first satellite communication channel and the second satellite communication channel are associated with the same frequency band and have different polarizations.

75. A system comprising:
a transmitter for transmitting data via satellite, said transmitter transmitting data on a selected one of a plurality of satellite communication channels; and
a receiver for receiving data using a selected one of the plurality of satellite communication channels,